

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /017 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JTRATTNER
APPROVED BY S/PRS:JTRATTNER
S/S-8:LRFLEISCHER

-----095636 210415Z /65

O 210321Z JAN 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 017193 TOSEC 010133

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM TRATTNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

NO. 14

1. REPORT (BY NBC) THAT SADAT COMING TO WASHINGTON SUNDAY:
SPOKESMAN SAID HE HAD CHECKED THIS REPORT IN A NUMBER OF
AF,RTERS AND IT IS HIS CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT SADAT WILL
NOT REPEAT NOT BE COMING TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND.
BEYOND THAT, HE KNEW OF NO PLANS FOR HIM TO COME IN NEAR
FUTURE.

2. PURPOSE OF ATHERTON'S RETURN TO JERUSALEM: ONE OF HIS
PURPOSES IS TO CONVEY TO ISRAELI AUTHORITIES RESULTS OF
SECRETARY'S MEETINGS WITH SADAT FRIDAY IN CAIRO. DO NOT
KNOW WHAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS ARE BEYOND THAT.

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3. MEETING WITH EUROPEANS ON HORN SITUATION: RESPONDING
TO QUESTIONS TAKEN PREVIOUS DAY, SPOKESMAN SAID
MEETING IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED--WEATHER PERMITTING--FOR
JANUARY 21 AT DEPARTMENT BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF UK,
FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, AND ITALY; U.S. REP WILL BE DICK
MOOSE, OTHER REPS WILL BE OF EQUIVALENT RANK. PURPOSE OF
MEETING IS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SITUATION IN HORN AND

DISCUSS WHAT MIGHT BE DONE THAT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO RESTORATION OF PEACEFUL CONDITIONS THERE. SPOKESMAN WOULD NOT ELABORATE FURTHER ON MEETING'S PURPOSE, BUT SAID FOREGOING DESCRIPTION COVERS A LOT OF GROUND AND PROMISED TO GET READ-OUT FOR PRESS IF POSSIBLE.

4. TO FURTHER QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, SPOKESMAN CONVEYED FOLLOWING: HE HAS NOT BEEN TOLD MEETING WILL BE DECISION-MAKING MEETING, BUT DID NOT EXCLUDE THAT SOME CONCLUSIONS MAY BE ARRIVED AT AND PERHAPS SOME DECISIONS MADE; MEETING INCLUDES THESE PARTICULAR FOUR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BECAUSE THEY ARE CLOSE ALLIES AND HAVE SAME GENERAL CONCERNS AS WE FOR THIS PART OF THE WORLD; MEETING IS NOT MEANT TO EXCLUDE OTHER U.S. ALLIES OR OTHER INTERESTED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA THEMSELVES, WITH ALL OF WHOM IN ANY CASE WE HAVE CONTACTS AND DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT; THIS IS A MEETING BETWEEN SOME COUNTRIES CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBLEM; IT DOES NOT EXCLUDE THAT THERE WOULD BE MEETINGS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNED.

5. ITEMS STILL IN PIPELINE TO ETHIOPIA: ANSWER POSTED TO QUESTION TAKEN ON THIS SUBJECT HAD TRACED HISTORY OF RECENT CUT-OFF OF MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH ADDIS, NOTING EXCEPTIONS FOR CERTAIN ITEMS ALREADY IN PIPELINE SUCH AS TRUCKS AND SPARE PARTS ON WHICH TITLE UNCLASSIFIED

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HAD ALREADY PASSED LEGALLY TO ETHIOPIA, AND THREE PATROL BOATS PURCHASED COMMERCIALY. RESPONDING TO FURTHER QUESTIONS, SPOKESMAN SAID (1) INTENT OF ABOVE INFORMATION IS NOT TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT PIPELINE ITEMS ARE MAJOR OR MINOR, BUT SIMPLY TO STATE FACTS; (2) PIPELINE REFERS TO MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP THAT EXISTED UNTIL LAST APRIL AND FACT THAT AT TIME OF CUT-OFF OF RELATIONSHIP THERE WERE ITEMS IN PROCESS OF BEING SHIPPED; (3) SOME OF THESE ITEMS WERE CUT OFF LAST JUNE, AND SOME, AS NOTED, WERE EXCEPTED; (4) THESE ITEMS WERE IN PIPELINE THEN AND ARE IN PIPELINE NOW, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND NOTHING IS IN FACT MOVING; (5) SPOKESMAN DECLINED SAY DEFINITELY THAT THESE ITEMS HAD NOW ALSO BEEN CUT OFF; (6) IN ANY CASE, IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT IN PROCESS OF CONTINUING TO HAVE A MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA, NOT IN PROCESS OF GIVING THEM FURTHER ITEMS THAN AS ALREADY DESCRIBED, AND IT IS NOT OUR INTENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO EITHER SIDE OF CONFLICT WITH WEAPONS OF WAR--AND THIS CLEARLY APPLIES TO PIPELINE SITUATION CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE017193
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JTRATTNER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780032-0113
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780136/aaaabeqp.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e90a25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3734434
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING NO. 14
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e90a25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014